

DMR/ASD Updates

Commissioner Morrissey's Quarterly Quote:



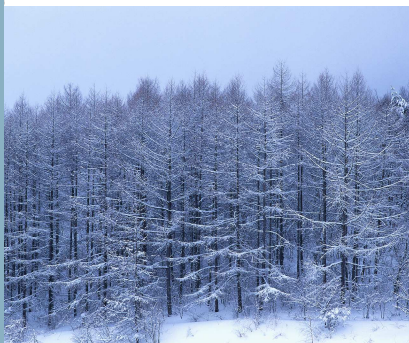
Greetings,

A true sign that winter is almost over occurred recently and it is not related to the groundhog in Pennsylvania. Last week, the Red Sox Spring Training Truck pulled out of Fenway Park en route to Florida filled with all of the supplies necessary to get the Boston Red Sox World Series ready!

Another sign that winter is coming to a close are the Spring events taking place at the State House. These initiatives include the development of the 2007 budget by the Governor and Legislature and the planning for both MR/DD Month in March and Autism Awareness Month in April.

Despite the recent Nor'easter, the Autism Division has not spent anytime in hibernation—instead, there has been a flurry of activity. The Autism Support Centers each received new fiscal resources to help develop staff capacity and to create various programs and camps for children that will take place between now and the end of June. Through the Division's RFR Mini-Grant Process, 27 organizations from across the Commonwealth received funding totaling \$250,000 to implement a variety of programs for children and their families. These programs will reach families in communities from Pittsfield to Martha's Vineyard. Over the next few months the Division's work will focus on the development of the Autism Waiver and the Autism Resource Guide for Families.

Recipients of the Autism Mini-Grant Awards:



(Please contact the grant recipient directly for more information)

1. Arc of Greater Boston **617-783-3900**: Therapeutic Arts Program
2. Arc of Northern Bristol County **508-226-1445**: Teen Connect Program
3. Association for Community Living **413-586-8196**: Self-Advocacy Groups in Westfield & Greenfield
4. Autism Alliance of MetroWest **508-652-9900**: Community Trainings
5. Autism Support Center **978-624-2304**: Lawrence Music & Art Project
6. Berkshire County ARC **413-499-4241**: Sensory Integration Gym Program
7. Better Community Living **508-999-4300**: Swim and Dance Project in New Bedford & Wareham
8. Bridgewell (Lynn) **781-593-1088**: Building Body & Spirit Teen Program
9. Brockton Area Arc **508-583-8030**: Sunday Gym & Swim Program & Art and Music Therapy Program
10. Cambridge Family and Children's Services **617-876-4210**: Community and Family Autism Support Program
11. Charles River ARC **781-972-1032** & Newton Public Schools: Parent Educational Trainings
12. CLASS, Inc. (Lawrence & Lowell) **978-975-8587**: Bridging Community Supports Program
13. Community Resources for People with Autism & All Out Adventures **413-527-8980**: Pioneer Valley Sibshops
14. EMARC (Andover) **781-942-4888**: Journey to Independence Program
15. Greater Marlborough Programs **508-485-4227**: Social Enrichment and Sports Club
16. Haitian American Public Health Initiative (Mattapan): **617-298-8076**: Parent Support Behavioral Project
17. LUK Crisis Center **978-345-0685**: Adventure Activities Program in Fitchburg & Worcester
18. Martha's Vineyard Community Services: **508-693-7900 ext. 249**: Recreate, Educate & Celebrate (REC) Programs
19. May Institute (Randolph) **781-437-1252**: Parent Trainings for Parents of Young Children with ASD
20. May Institute (West Springfield) **413-734-0300**: Social Skills Group
21. Minuteman Arc (Concord) **978-287-7900**: Training on ASD for Parents and Educators and an After-School

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Recipients of the Autism Mini-Grant Awards (Continued):

(Please contact the grant recipient directly for more information)

- 22. **Seven Hills** (Devens) **978-772-7170**: Social Skills Program
- 23. **TILL** (Boston) **781-302-4600**: Sensory Integration Gym Program in Roxbury
- 24. **TILL & Boston Families for Autism** **781-302-4600**: After-School Program in Hyde Park
- 25. **Walnut Street Center** **617-625-6600 x2980** : Siblinks Program in Somerville
- 26. **WINARC** (Winthrop) **617-846-7964** & **Autism Support Center** (Danvers): YES WE CAN! (Therapeutic Recreation)
- 27. **YMCA Boroughs** **508-870-1320** & **AAMW**: Sports of All Sorts Program



Other Autism Division Updates:

- The **First Responder Training Initiative** is moving ahead thanks in large part to the efforts of those at South Norfolk County Arc's Family Autism Center, The Autism Resource Center in Central MA, the Autism Alliance of MetroWest and the Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC) an effort initiated by the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office.
- The **Pediatrician Awareness Project** is gearing up for a late Spring Continuing Medical Education (CME) Course with a focus on using various diagnostic screening tools to help with early identification of developmental disabilities, especially autism. The conference will to be held at UMASS in Worcester for pediatricians, family practioners and nurse practioners. More information will follow in the next addition of the DMR/ASD Updates.
- The design and planning efforts are underway for the **Autism Resource Guide for Families**. If you have any suggestions about what you think would be helpful to include in the guide designed for families, please contact the Division.
- **Melmark New England** is working on creating school and community based trainings in the Northeast area. Training efforts are underway in Andover and Lawrence.

Autism Resource Centers*

*All Autism Centers provide information and referral resources for all five Pervasive Developmental Disorders with the exception of AANE whose focus is Asperger's Syndrome.

Asperger's Association of New England
 Phone: 617- 393-3824
 Website: <http://aane.autistics.org>

Autism Alliance of MetroWest
 Serving: MetroWest
 Phone: 508-652-9900
 Website: www.autismalliance.org

Autism Resource Center
 Serving: Central Massachusetts
 Phone: 508-595-9101
 Website: www.arccm.org

The Autism Support Center
 Serving: Northeast
 Phone: 978-777-9135
 Website: www2.shore.net/~nsarc/Home.htm

Community Autism Resources
 Serving: Southeast
 Phone: 508-379-0371
 Website: www.community-autism-resources.org

Community Resources for People with Autism
 Serving: Western Massachusetts
 Phone: 413-529-2428
 Website: www.theassn.org/crautismindex.htm

TILL & Boston Families for Autism
 Serving: Greater Boston
 Phone: 781-302-4600
 Website: www.tillinc.org/index.htm

The Family Autism Center
 Serving: Norfolk County/South West
 Phone: 781-762-4001 x 329
 Website: <http://www.sncarc.org/autism.html>